

Wilson Perseveres in Budget Battle and Brings Home Nearly \$8 million for Ohio's Sixth Congressional District

\$5,098,750 headed to Athens & Noble Counties

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Charlie Wilson (OH-6) today announced that \$7,987,643 in federal dollars could soon be headed directly to Ohio's Sixth District, with \$5,098,750 of that money going to support growth and recovery in Athens and Noble Counties. The federal funds are part of the \$410 billion Omnibus spending bill which passed the House today and will wrap up Congress' work on 2009 appropriations. The bill still awaits Senate passage.

This legislation works in harmony with the recently enacted economic recovery package, making investments that address the country's immediate needs while investing in our long term economic strength. The bill cuts and eliminates programs that haven't performed the way they should, and includes strict accountability measures to ensure that American tax dollars are spent wisely. It invests in oversight efforts carried out by the Inspectors General and the Government Accountability Office. The bill makes great improvements in the following areas.

- **Energy Security:** Increases funding for renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts, to increase the production of clean, efficient, American energy key to our long term economic security.
- **Scientific Research:** Makes strong investments into cutting edge science so that our nation will maintain its preeminence in the global economy.
- **Healthcare Access and Affordability:** Improves access to quality, affordable healthcare.
- **Education to Promote Opportunity:** Promotes our future economic strength by investing in K-12 education and helping families send their kids to college.

- **Workers:** Helps American workers in the tough economy train for and find good jobs in safe workplaces.

- **Safe and Healthy America:** Protects Americans by investing in programs to ensure clean air and water, and the safety of our food, medicine and consumer products.

- **Regulation for an Economy in Chaos:** Strengthens regulatory agencies that had been neglected, to beef up their efforts during the economic crisis.

In addition, earmarks have been further reduced by 5% below last year's levels, building on last year's 43% reduction.

"I'm proud of this spending bill," Wilson said. "We've made responsible cuts, but are spending money where it needs to be spent. If there's one thing I hear a lot from people all along the Ohio River and up into Mahoning and Columbiana Counties is that they feel Ohio doesn't always get its fair share," Wilson said. "I'm proud to bring nearly \$8 million back home in federal investment. Each of these projects will help our district; these aren't bridges to nowhere."

For example, Wilson, along with Congressman Zack Space (OH-18) secured \$688,000 for the Ohio University Airport in Athens County. The federal funding will be used to make crucial infrastructure to Ohio University Airport, which is the only airport in a nine-county region with an instrument landing system. Funding will go toward the construction of an aircraft hangar and access road; the installation of a medium intensity approach light system; and the acquisition of land parcels and navigation easements.

"This facility brings in more than \$15 million in economic activity to the region. This airport is a key development tool in this region," Wilson said.

Wilson, along with Sen. George Voinovich, also secured \$238,000 to expand the Southeast Ohio Center for Excellence in Mathematics and Science in Athens County. This organization is a joint project for Ohio University, its five regional campuses, Shawnee State University and the University of Rio Grande, and focuses on improving mathematics and science education for grades K-12 and at the college level. By providing instructors with additional training and effective teaching materials, the center hopes to improve school curricula and recruit a new generation of students and professionals actively contributing to the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

In addition, Wilson, along with Rep. Space, Sen. Voinovich and Sen. Sherrod Brown, secured \$232,750 to expand Ohio University's Economic Development through Entrepreneurship in Appalachia program . EDEA helps small companies throughout Appalachia enter new markets and develop a business plan for competitive and sustainable growth. By helping companies expand, EDEA contributes to job creation and retention in Appalachian Ohio.

To increase the safety of its citizens and its officers, Wilson also made sure that both Noble County and Athens County Sheriff Departments will each receive \$50,000 through this federal spending bill . With these funds, both departments will each be able to purchase the following: two in-car digital eyewitness video systems, two radar units, 15 bullet proof vests, ten pairs of night vision goggles, and five laptop computers to be used in mobile command units and in the field.

"I believe our local law enforcement has had to do too much with too little for too long," Wilson said. "I'm proud we're reversing that trend, keeping our citizens and our officers safer."

Finally, the total for the 2009 appropriations that Wilson secured for the Sixth Congressional District reflects two projects previously announced when the Defense bill was signed into law in December 2008. Those previously announced projects include \$2.24 million for an alternative energy project at Ohio University and \$1.6 million awarded for continuing research at OU on lightweight heat exchangers for airplanes and spacecraft.

The bill is now headed to the Senate for passage. Senate passage is likely next week.

###